



Supervisor Tony Buffington  
**Blue Ridge District**  
*NewsFlash*



Sent: January 29, 2021



**Key Points  
About  
Vaccine  
Supply &  
Distribution  
in Loudoun**



[loudoun.gov/COVID19vaccine](https://loudoun.gov/COVID19vaccine)

As Loudoun County and Virginia health officials work to refine the COVID-19 vaccination effort, here are key points to keep in mind about vaccine availability and distribution in Loudoun County. This content can also be found on Loudoun County's [latest blog update here](#).

**Current Status of Vaccine Distribution**

- Loudoun and the rest of Virginia are now in [Phase 1b of vaccine eligibility](#), which means that about 50% of the state's population is now eligible for vaccination. However, there are not enough doses available yet for everyone who is eligible to receive them. At our current supply rate, it will take months—at least until March or April—for Virginia to meet the demand for Phase 1b vaccinations.

### **How Vaccine is Distributed**

- Loudoun County's vaccine supply comes from the Virginia Department of Health, which allocates doses to local health districts, such as Loudoun, based on each district's population. Virginia, like all states, gets vaccine doses from the federal government. You can keep track of doses administered in Loudoun through the [Virginia Department of Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Summary Dashboard](#), which is updated daily. Data entry sometimes lags; therefore, the data summary may not show the actual number of vaccine doses administered in real time.

### **How to Sign Up for Vaccine**

- Currently, vaccinations are being distributed by the Loudoun County Health Department by appointment only. If you are eligible to be vaccinated and your employer has not made arrangements for vaccination, you may [submit an online pre-screening survey](#) to the Loudoun Health Department. Employers can sign up using this same survey by selecting "organization" when prompted. This is the fastest and most efficient method to obtain an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine. People who do not have access to the internet may call us at 703-737-8300.

### **If You've Submitted a Request for Vaccine**

- If you are seeking a vaccination appointment and have submitted your information to the Loudoun County Health Department through the online pre-screening survey or by

phone, please be patient. It may be weeks or longer before vaccination appointments become available for those who have registered. You will be contacted by email or phone when it is your turn for an appointment.

### **Second Dose Appointments**

- While vaccine supply continues to remain very limited, we anticipate we will receive enough doses each week to provide second doses to those who are eligible. The second dose should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible. However, if it is not feasible to adhere to the recommended interval, the second doses may be scheduled for administration up to six weeks (42 days) after the first dose, [according to new CDC guidance](#).
- If you scheduled your appointment online:
  - Please wait at least three business days from your first dose appointment to allow the online system to register your first dose.
  - Log in to the vaccine scheduling system you used to schedule your first appointment to schedule your second dose appointment.
  - Select 'Second Dose Clinic.'
  - If you do not see an available appointment, please be patient and check back.
- If you scheduled your appointment by phone and you did not schedule your second dose at the clinic on the day of your first dose:
  - The Loudoun County Health Department will be contacting you by phone to schedule your second dose appointment.
  - Please be patient and we will reach out to you as we open additional appointments for second doses.

**New Vaccine Distribution Site Coming Soon**

- The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has approved for the county to enter a lease arrangement to operate a large, full-scale COVID-19 vaccination point of dispensing, or pod, at a large site in the eastern portion of the county. The vaccination site is expected to open for only people who have an appointment beginning in February. Once open, appointments will still be required via the process outlined above. The site will have the capacity to facilitate approximately 4,800 doses a day; however, the Health Department's ability to administer vaccine will still be dependent on doses received.

### **Stay Informed**

- Additional information about the ongoing vaccination efforts will be published by the county as it becomes available. You can find up-to-date information at [loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine](https://loudoun.gov/covid19vaccine). You can also sign up to receive text or email updates about COVID-19 from Loudoun County:
  - Text LCCOVID19 to 888777.
  - Sign up for email and text updates on COVID-19 in [Notify Me, Blogs category, "Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)"](#).
  - Follow Loudoun County on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
  - Visit the county's website, [loudoun.gov/coronavirus](https://loudoun.gov/coronavirus).

### **Continue Taking COVID-19 Precautions**

- As we wait for the supply of COVID-19 vaccine to catch up to demand, it is more important than ever to continue to follow all [current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) to protect yourself and your family against COVID-19, such as staying home when possible, wearing face masks when out, maintaining 6 feet of physical distance from others, washing hands frequently or using hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.

## Supervisor Buffington's January 26th Questions to Doctor Goodfriend

**1. How many vaccines per week is Loudoun getting from the state of Virginia and/or the federal government?** According to the Virginia Department of Health, as of last week, the State of Virginia receives approximately 105,000-110,000 doses of vaccine per week from the federal government, and Northern Virginia received approximately 22,000 first doses per week, or roughly 20% of all doses. Currently, Loudoun County is receiving approximately 4,800 doses per week.

**2. How many vaccines per week are being administered in Loudoun?** According to the Health Department, Loudoun County government's closed POD site has vaccinated 11,401 patients through January 26, 2021, while the Loudoun County Public Schools POD site has vaccinated a total of 6,172. Therefore, a total of 17,573 doses have been administered between both POD sites. Other doses are being administered by the major hospitals in Loudoun in addition to pharmacies that are beginning to vaccinate those in long-term care facilities (nursing and assisted living facilities). The Health Department is administering all the vaccines received each week and none are left on the shelf.

**3. Is Loudoun set up to handle more or less vaccines per week than we are getting? Could Loudoun improve upon its current set up in order to receive and administer more vaccines per week? If so, how?** The county's new site for providing vaccinations in eastern Loudoun will have the capacity to facilitate approximately 4,800 doses a day. The Health Department should be able to provide vaccinations to three times as many people per week at its new site than it is able to provide at its current POD site in Eastern Loudoun. This estimate is dependent on obtaining a reliable supply of vaccine to meet this threshold and the ability to sustain its cadre of vaccinators and support personnel to work the site. Additional vaccinators have been trained and are now being provided to the Health Department by the Loudoun County Combined

Fire and Rescue System (medics and emergency medical technicians, intermediates) to supplement existing vaccinators from the Medical Reserve Corps and local Health Department's public health nurses. These additional vaccinators should enable more persons to be vaccinated at this new site once vaccine supply becomes more available.

**4. Overall, what percentage of state and/or federally provided vaccines have been administered to patients in Loudoun?** According to the VDH COVID-19 Dashboard, as of January 26, 2021, and with 79,607 doses not mapped, Loudoun County residents have received a total of 21,590 doses of vaccine and 2,458 persons have been fully vaccinated (e.g., two doses). A total of 569,040 doses have been administered throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Therefore, Loudoun residents have received approximately 4% of all doses administered in Virginia. Loudoun ranks 3rd among counties in the number of doses administered behind Fairfax and Henrico counties and slightly ahead of Prince William and Chesterfield counties.

**5. Approximately what percentage of vaccines have gone to waste in Loudoun? Generally speaking, why have they gone to waste?** With any vaccine vial, there is the potential for some vaccine to remain in a vial, which is a normal part of any vaccination process. However, our vaccinators are trained to maximize the number of doses from each vial. Also, Loudoun does not have vaccines sitting on the shelf going unused; appointments are being made as quickly as possible for every dose available. Loudoun is motivated to utilize every dose provided weekly since the state has implemented a "use it or lose it" policy.

**6. Did Virginia opt-in to the federal program to vaccinate nursing homes and long-term care facilities? Has this worked as efficiently as states who opted out of the program and instead implemented their own solutions? I'm told that West Virginia opted out, has fully administered first shots and began administering second shots to these facilities. Yes. The Virginia Department of Health ensured that Virginia long-term care**

facilities (nursing care and assisted living facilities) were signed up under the federal government's contracted program with national pharmacy chains -- CVS and Walgreens -- to provide vaccination clinics to these residents and associated health care workers. These national chains are making inroads to these facilities starting with skilled nursing care facilities first. However, the rollout is slower than expected. See attached list.

**7. Is Virginia utilizing National Guard resources to assist with its vaccination program? If so, are they being used in Loudoun? If not, why?**

Virginia is expected to use National Guard soldiers and airmen to administer vaccinations at some point, but no announcement has been made to confirm such an arrangement to our knowledge. Governor Northam announced on January 6, 2021, that the National Guard will be used to transport and set up vaccination sites. The Health Department believes that the National Guard will not be necessary for providing vaccinations in Loudoun County since staffing is not a limiting factor. Virginia did utilize the National Guard airmen to undertake prevalence point surveys (targeted COVID-19 testing) at long-term care facilities to address COVID-19 clusters. Several Loudoun long-term care facilities underwent this point prevalence testing using the National Guard. According to the National Guard, as of January 14, 2021, 16 states and territories are using National Guard soldiers and airmen to administer COVID-19 vaccines to public health care workers, nursing staff and residents, and other high-risk people.

**8. Has Virginia established a 24x7 Incident Command Post for handling the vaccination program? If so, is it staffed virtually or in-person?**

The Virginia Department of Health, working with state agencies, established a unified command for the COVID-19 response since early spring of 2020. It is unclear whether there have been any significant changes in this structure for handling the vaccination program, other than to pivot to this type of response. Governor Northam has appointed Dr. Danny Avula, MD as the new state vaccine coordinator to lead the vaccination program roll-out statewide. He is likely a part of that unified command structure.

Loudoun County Emergency Operations Center has been active since March 6, 2020, and the local Health Department's Incident Management Team has been active since February 2020 to coordinate the COVID-19 response effort for Loudoun County. This is operational during normal business hours and virtual for the rest of the week. As part of the response though, the county's COVID-19 hotline is operational 7 days a week during set hours.

**9. Are Loudoun's vaccine clinic's proportionately spread throughout the county based on population?** No. The Health Department has started the process of expanding access in western Loudoun County through the redistribution to select health care providers in that part of the county. The Health Department is balancing the value in providing equal geographic access with the need to maximize efficiency and minimize waste (once a vaccine vial is opened all 10 doses must be used within 6 hours or the unused portion is thrown away). There are two vaccine clinics, or PODs, which are in more populous areas of the county. One is for LCPS personnel only (closed to the public) and one is for those individuals in Phases 1a and 1b under the Governor and VDH's priorities in eastern Loudoun. There are other clinics being held at some long-term care facilities by the large pharmacy chains, CVS and Walgreens, and some vaccinations were administered by both Inova and HCA.

- Note: I have followed up on this response to request a list of the select health care providers that are receiving vaccine distributions from the Health Department. Upon receipt of this list, I will share it with you.

**10. Does Loudoun schedule vaccinations before or after vaccinations are in hand?** Since vaccine allocations have varied significantly from week to week as distributed by the state and federal government, the Health Department has only scheduled clinics once they are assured that there is vaccine for those appointment slots. Hopefully, the Health Department will receive a more predictable supply in the future in order that it may schedule appointments out further.



**11. What is Loudoun's biggest impediment to its vaccination program?** The lack of available vaccine supply to support the local Health Department from the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or the federal government.

**12. What if anything, could the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors do to help speed up the administration of vaccinations in Loudoun County?** The Board could continue to voice its collective support for additional vaccine supply to be made available for Loudoun County by the state and federal governments. The Board has already provided financial support with the approval of a lease for an expanded Loudoun County POD site for the Health Department to administer even more vaccinations once additional vaccine is made available.

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***Coronavirus - We're in it together, we'll get through it together - Tony***

Be safe!



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